

Serial No. 09/746,264

B1
Sub 5. (Twice Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim 1 wherein the hinges are formed from a material adapted to impart additional structural rigidity relative to an adjacent region in the absorbent element, the material being selected from the group consisting of a sphagnum-moss containing insert, a densified channel, a strip of polymeric foam, and combinations thereof.